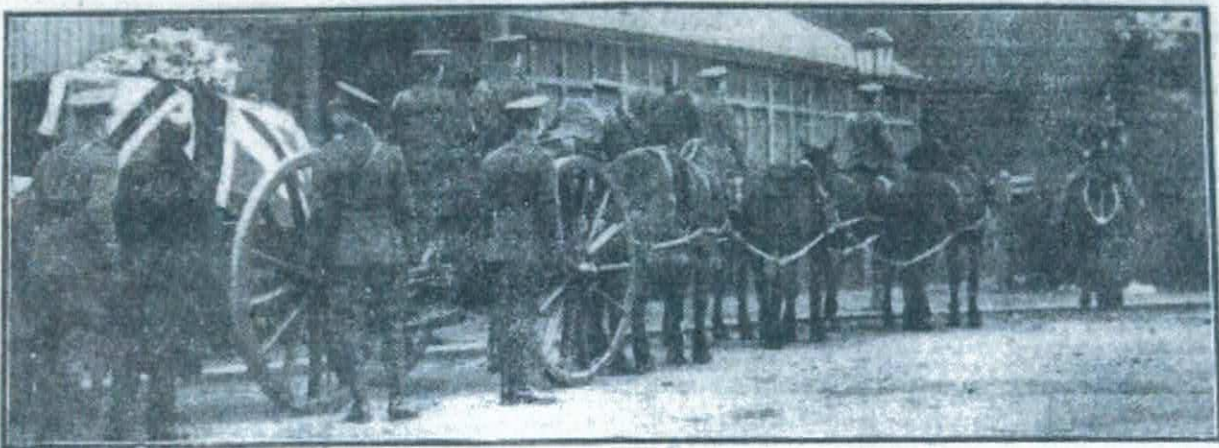


LONSDALE James Raymond McClintock

Lieutenant James Raymond McClintock Lonsdale was a member of the Eton College School Officer Training Corps. On leaving Eton he went to Sandhurst obtaining a commission in the 4th (Queen's Own) Hussars. At the outbreak of war, he was a regular officer and travelled to France with the British Expeditionary Force in August 1914. He was a 1st Lieutenant in a cavalry regiment. James Raymond was badly wounded and three men of his regiment, all of whom were wounded, gallantly carried him to safety. He was transferred to the base hospital at Boulogne, where he subsequently died of his wounds on 29th October 1914. He was brought back to Willaston where the funeral was held on 31st October. A photograph in the Birkenhead News showed his coffin on a gun carriage covered with the Union Jack. The flag for many years hung in Willaston Church and is recorded on a plaque in the Church. He is buried in the Churchyard. His gravestone is hung with a cavalry sword. Pictures of his grave are shown on the accompanying DVD.



Lt Lonsdale's coffin arriving at Hooton Station

Other information

James Raymond McClintock was the elder son of Thomas and Mary Alice Lonsdale (nee McClintock). They lived at Hawthornden, a house on the corner of Benty Heath Lane and Hooton Road. This house was subsequently demolished. Thomas was a provision merchant at J & J Lonsdale Co., Stanley Street, Liverpool. The family came from Ireland. and an uncle had been High Sheriff of Armagh and subsequently became an M.P. representing the Irish Unionist Party. James and his brother, Thomas Leopold, were students at Eton College. The Eton College records showed that James played in the house teams and took part in the house Debating Society. In 1911 he is recorded as seconding a motion "Ancient warfare was more pleasurable than modern warfare". In 1912 the debate topic ironically was: "Is war with Germany inevitable or not?" James Raymond is recorded on the Eton College Memorial Wall. Over 5,000 Eton students served in the Great War and of these over 1,000 perished.

The Birkenhead Advertiser records that Thomas Lonsdale was a speaker at a public meeting at the Willaston Institute in September 1914. The meeting resulted in 14 men volunteering to enlist. Despite his grief, Thomas was active in raising funds to build the Willaston War Memorial and he was one of the speakers at its unveiling in 1921.

A group of Neston Sixth Form students visited Eton College in June 2014 to study the relevant archives relating to Lt. Lonsdale.